

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6909

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

XAMEMBASSY CANBERRA 2007

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 12564

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS ID

SUBJECT: SIMATUPANG'S VIEWS ON ALLEGED MOVEMENT TO UNSEAT PRESIDENT

REF: JAKARTA 12520

1. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAS SHARED WITH US A SEPT 23 PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH PROTESTANT LEADER GEN. SIMATUPANG, WHO DISAVOWED ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT THE CRITICAL DOCUMENT HE SIGNED (REFTEL) WOULD BE USED AGAINST THE PRESIDENT BUT WHO REVEALED THAT HE WILL WORK FOR A CONSENSUS TO REPLACE SUHARTO.

2. SIMATUPANG TOLD THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR THAT HE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT HATTA AND CARDINAL DARMOJUWONO ALL BELIEVED THAT INS SIGNING SAWITO KARTOWIBOWO'S "IN PURSUIT OF SALVATION DOCUMENT" THEY WERE SIMPLY SIGNIFYING THEIR APPROVAL FOR A PIECE OF PERSONAL RESEARCH. SIMATUPANG NOTED THAT HE HAD IN FACT DIFFICULTY IN RECALLING THE PAPER WHEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE PANGGABEAN CALLED ON HIM TO DISCUSS

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THE MATTER THIS PAST WEEKEND. SIMATUPANG ATTRIBUTED THE

PRESIDENT'S STRONG REACTION TO THE DOCUMENT TO (A) AN UNEASY CONSCIENCE OVER HIS FAMILY'S INVOLVEMENT IN CORRUPTION AND (B) EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO SUGGESTIONS THAT OMENS HAD DETERMINED THE END OF HIS POWER. THE LATTER, SIMATUPANG EXPLAINED, HAD BEEN CONVEYED BY A NUMBER OF LETTERS THE PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED ADVOCATING HIS RESIGNATION.

3. WHEN DURING THE WEEKEND MEETING, PANGGABEAN HAD ASKED WHO SHOULD SUCCEED SUHARTO, SIMATUPANG SAID HE HAD EVADED THE QUESTION BY PICTURING HIS PERSONAL ROLE AS HELPING TO MOVE EVENTS IN INDONESIA TOWARDS A FAVORABLE SITUATION WHERE THERE COULD BE SOME CHANGE TO A NEW LEADERSHIP WITH NEW ELAN WITHOUT THE VIOLENCE OF 1965-66. TO THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR SIMATUPANG SAID HE FELT THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP HAD LIVED OUT ITS TIME BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT A CHANGE COME ABOUT THROUGH A GENERAL CONSENSUS RATHER THAN VIOLENCE OR UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE ARMY. SIMATUPANG INDICATED THAT HE WOULD WORK QUIETLY FOR THE RIGHT CONSENSUS DURING THE COMING MONTHS, THAT THE FORMATIVE PERIOD WOULD BE THE MONTHS AFTER THE 1977 ELECTION, AND THAT THE CATALYST MIGHT BE THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT BY THE MPR IN 1978.

NEWSOM

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Message Attributes

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